

NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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DECISION MEMO ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE

Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report for Pryor Census Designated Place

November 8, 2021

Apsaalooke Water and Wastewater Authority

PER – Administrative Action

45.423220, -108.538370

Big Horn County

PURPOSE AND NEED

US Indian Health Service believes the Pryor wastewater system was originally constructed in 1976; however, much of the collection system was constructed prior to 1985. The existing wastewater system has the following deficiencies: numerous breaks and estimated exfiltration of 25% or more; several collection mains were installed at slopes of less than 0.4%; and frequent surcharging and backups occur in the terminal manhole. The PER will provide a written description of why the engineering study was undertaken, the basic needs or deficiencies of the wastewater system, the alternatives considered and the preferred alternative, the cost estimate to construct the preferred alternative, and the net cost per user based on the proposed funding plan. The proposed PER project will preserve existing groundwater, Pryor Creek, and soil. The proposed PER project will also mitigate risks to human health and safety.

The PER update is scheduled for completion during the Fall of 2022.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action:

DNRC approved the grant to provide funding for the Apsaalooke Water and Wastewater Authority.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

- ✓ Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.

- ☐ Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.
- ☐ Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.
- ☐ Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.
- ☐ Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

Prepared By:	Name: Sonja Hoeglund Email: shoeglund@mt.gov	Date: 11/08/2021
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Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom Title: CARD Division Administrator
Signature:	Date: 11/15/2021 9:49:38 AM MST

